THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The trends of foreign and domestic debt of the Central Government and debt servicing charges as per the latest information are as under:

(in crore of Rupees)

	Internal debt and other liabilities as at the end of the Year	External* Debt as at the end of the year	Total Debt Servicing for the year	Fiscal Deficit as % of GDP
1990-91 (actual)	283033	31525	48789	7.0
1998-99 (actual)	834552	57254	197559	5.1
1999-00 (RE)	973141	57603	206630	5.6
2000-01 (BE)	1122895	56898	225683	5.1

**based on historical rates of exchange.*

Increase in the indebtedness of the Central Government is due to recurring fiscal deficits over the year.

BIFR Direction to Dunlop India Ltd.

1291. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has directed the Manu Chhabria controlled Dunlop India Limited to sigh a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with all workers' unions to restart its operations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes,' Sir. Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that in a hearing held on 18th January, 2000, BIFR has directed that M/s Dunlop India Ltd. to finalise Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with all the Unions within a month

covering unpaid wages, sacrifices, if any, to be made by the workers and any future conditionalities at least for a period of three years with a view to start the factory with their co-operation.

Budgetary Allocation for Food and Sugar Subsidy

1292. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary allocation for food and sugar subsidies during the current year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the allocation proved to be inadequate particularly due to increased carrying cost of foodgrains; and

(c) if so, whether enhancement of the allocation for the next year is being contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The budgetary allocation for food and sugar subsidies in the year 1999-2000 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates
Food	8200	9200
Sugar	360	235

(b) The increase in the allocation of food subsidy is mainly due to settlement of pending claims for previous years of the Food Corporation of India.

(c) No, Sir.

Acceptance of Rs. 500 Currency Notes

1293. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment are aware that a panic like situation has been created
in the public mind due to refusal by many shops/business establishments to accept Rs. 500/- currency notes; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) A few instances of some shops/business establishments refusing to accept 500 rupee notes have been brought to the notice of Reserve Bank of India.

X— 146/RS/ND/2000